

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE  
TENTH CIRCUIT**

IN RE: COMPLAINT UNDER THE  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND  
DISABILITY ACT

No. 10-12-90033

Before **BRISCOE**, Chief Judge.

**ORDER**

Complainant has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against a district judge in this circuit. My consideration of this complaint is governed by 1) the misconduct rules issued by the Judicial Conference of the United States, entitled *Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings* (the “Misconduct Rules”); 2) the federal statute dealing with judicial misconduct, 28 U.S.C. § 351 *et seq.*, and 3) the “Breyer Report,” a study by the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act Study Committee, headed by Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, entitled *Implementation of the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980*. The Breyer Report may be found at: <http://www.supremecourt.gov/publicinfo/breyercommitteereport.pdf>. To the extent that there are any relevant prior decisions of the full Judicial Council of this circuit which are consistent with those authorities, they may also govern my consideration of this complaint.

Complainant has been provided with a copy of the Misconduct Rules, and the Rules are also accessible on the Tenth Circuit’s web page at:

<http://www.ca10.uscourts.gov/misconduct.php>. In accord with those rules, the names of the complainant and subject judge shall not be disclosed in this order. *See* Misconduct Rule 11(g)(2).

Complainant takes issue with various rulings by the subject judge dismissing and/or striking complainant's filings, by which complainant sought to join an existing case in federal court. Complainant contends that the judge erroneously based some of these rulings on a statute of limitations. These claims are not cognizable as misconduct because they are "directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling." Misconduct Rule 11(c)(1)(B). As explained in the Breyer Report, this exclusion of matters related to the merits of underlying cases protects the independence of the judges deciding those cases. *See* Breyer Report, App. E., ¶ 2.

Complainant alleges discrimination on behalf of the judge, but provides no evidence in support of that claim. Complainant contends that the judge knowingly allowed a false report to be filed in an unidentified case, but offers no factual allegations in support of this assertion. While allegations of discrimination and bias can state valid claims for misconduct even when related to a judge's ruling, *see* Commentary to Misconduct Rule 3, these claims fail because they are unsupported. The Misconduct Rules require complainants to support their allegations with "sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred." *See* Misconduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

Finally, complainant alleges that statements were made by an unnamed magistrate judge to the effect that complainant's case would win before a jury but the municipal defendant lacked the money to pay damages. In support, claimant attaches a 2010 affidavit from a third party making specific factual allegations about these statements and identifying the case. I have conducted a brief limited inquiry on this claim by looking at the case records involved. *See* Misconduct Rule 11(b). Both the district court judge and the magistrate judge assigned to that case are no longer on the bench. Because these misconduct procedures apply only to federal judges, *see* Misconduct Rule 4, this claim is moot.

Accordingly, this complaint is dismissed pursuant to Misconduct Rule 11(c). The Circuit Executive is directed to transmit this order to complainant and copies to the subject judge and the Judicial Conference Committee on Judicial Conduct and Disability. *See* Misconduct Rule 11(g)(2). To seek review of this order, complainant must file a petition for review by the Judicial Council. The requirements for filing a petition for review are set out in Misconduct Rule 18(b). The petition must be filed with the Office of the Circuit Executive within 35 days of the date of the letter transmitting this order. *Id.*

So ordered this 3rd day of December, 2012.

/s/ Mary Beck Briscoe

Honorable Mary Beck Briscoe  
Chief Circuit Judge